

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 5 as shown below, in which deletions are indicated by strikethrough and/or double brackets, and additions are indicated by underscoring. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (previously presented). An access port structure for a personal watercraft having a craft body with a deck having a distended portion extending upwardly thereon and having equipment situated within said craft body below the deck, said access port structure situated to permit access to said equipment and comprising:

a main service opening formed in the distended portion of said deck and configured to allow access to selected components of said equipment, said main service opening situated so that an operator can perform a first maintenance operation by reaching therethrough with one hand; and

a secondary service opening formed in the distended portion of said deck and configured to allow access to other selected components of said equipment without requiring the operator to access said main service opening;

wherein said secondary service opening is spaced sufficiently close to the main service opening to permit the operator perform a second maintenance operation, concurrent with the first maintenance operation, by reaching through the secondary service opening with his or her remaining hand while said one hand is extended through said main service opening.

Claim 2 (original). The access port structure for a personal watercraft according to claim 1, wherein said main service opening and said secondary service opening are respectively provided in the deck proximate a steering shaft.

Claim 3 (original). The access port structure of claim 1, further comprising a first lid for removably covering said main service opening, and a second lid for removably covering said secondary service opening.

Claim 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (currently amended). An access port structure for a personal watercraft having a craft body with a deck, wherein a front portion of said deck is distended upwardly to form a distended portion, said personal watercraft having a steering handle member which is rotatably supported at a central upper portion of said distended portion, and a steering shaft operatively connected to said steering handle member;

said access port structure comprising at least one opening formed in ~~a~~ an exterior side wall of said distended portion, and a lid which is removably attachable to said deck to temporarily cover said opening;

wherein said opening in said exterior side wall is substantially aligned with said steering shaft in a fore-and-aft direction of said watercraft;
and wherein the access port structure is configured such that the steering shaft is accessible upon removal of said lid from said opening in said exterior side wall.

Claim 6 (original) The access port structure of claim 5, wherein said access port structure further comprises a main service opening formed in a top surface of said deck.

Claim 7 (original). The access port structure of claim 6, further comprising a first lid for removably covering said main service opening, and a second lid for removably covering said opening in said side wall of said distended portion.

Claim 8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (previously presented). A personal watercraft comprising a craft body with a deck and having equipment situated within said craft body below the deck, said deck having a distended portion extending upwardly thereon with an access port structure situated therein to permit access to said equipment and comprising:

a main service opening formed in the distended portion of the deck and situated so that an operator can perform a first maintenance operation by reaching therethrough with one hand; and

a secondary service opening formed in the distended portion of the deck and situated so as to permit the operator perform a second maintenance operation, concurrent with the first maintenance operation, by reaching through the secondary service opening with his or her remaining hand while said one hand is extended through said main service opening.

Claim 10 (original). The personal watercraft of claim 9, wherein said main service opening and said secondary service opening are respectively provided in the deck proximate a steering shaft.

Claim 11 (original). The personal watercraft of claim 9, further comprising a first lid for removably covering said main service opening, and a second lid for removably covering said secondary service opening.

Claim 12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (previously presented). The personal watercraft of claim 9, wherein a front portion of said deck is distended upwardly to form said distended portion, said personal watercraft having a steering handle member which is rotatably supported at a central upper portion of said distended portion; and wherein said secondary service opening is formed in a side wall of said distended portion.

Claim 14 (original). The personal watercraft of claim 13, further comprising a first lid for removably covering said main service opening, and a second lid for removably covering said secondary service opening.

Claim 15 (canceled).

Claim 16 (previously presented). An access port structure for a personal watercraft having a craft body with a deck and having equipment situated within said craft body below the deck, said access port structure situated to permit access to said equipment and comprising:

a main service opening formed in the deck and situated so that an operator can perform a first maintenance operation by reaching therethrough with one hand; and

a secondary service opening formed in the deck and spaced sufficiently close to the main service opening to permit the operator perform a second maintenance operation, concurrent with the first maintenance operation, by reaching through the secondary service opening with his or her

remaining hand while said one hand is extended through said main service opening,

wherein said second lid has an air flow opening formed therethrough, and wherein said second lid also serves as an attaching portion for an intake or exhaust duct.

Claim 17 (previously presented). An access port structure for a personal watercraft having a craft body with a deck, wherein a front portion of said deck is distended upwardly to form a distended portion, said personal watercraft having a steering handle member which is rotatably supported at a central upper portion of said distended portion, said access port structure comprising at least one opening formed in a side wall of said distended portion, wherein said access port structure further comprises a main service opening formed in a top surface of said deck, further comprising a first lid for removably covering said main service opening, and a second lid for removably covering said opening in said side wall of said distended portion wherein said second lid has an air flow opening formed therethrough, and wherein said second lid also serves as an attaching portion for an intake or exhaust duct.

Claim 18 (previously presented). A personal watercraft comprising a craft body with a deck and having equipment situated within said craft body below the deck, said deck having an access port structure situated therein to permit access to said equipment and comprising:

a main service opening formed in the deck and situated so that an operator can perform a first maintenance operation by reaching therethrough with one hand; and

a secondary service opening formed in the deck and situated so as to permit the operator perform a second maintenance operation, concurrent with the first maintenance operation, by reaching through the secondary service opening with his or her remaining hand while said one

hand is extended through said main service opening,

further comprising a first lid for removably covering said main service opening, and a second lid for removably covering said secondary service opening, wherein said second lid has an air flow opening formed therethrough, and wherein said second lid also serves as an attaching portion for an intake or exhaust duct.

Claim 19 (previously presented). A personal watercraft comprising a craft body with a deck and having equipment situated within said craft body below the deck, said deck having an access port structure situated therein to permit access to said equipment and comprising:

a main service opening formed in the deck and situated so that an operator can perform a first maintenance operation by reaching therethrough with one hand; and

a secondary service opening formed in the deck and situated so as to permit the operator perform a second maintenance operation, concurrent with the first maintenance operation, by reaching through the secondary service opening with his or her remaining hand while said one hand is extended through said main service opening,

wherein a front portion of said deck is distended upwardly to form a distended portion, said personal watercraft having a steering handle member which is rotatably supported at a central upper portion of said distended portion; and

wherein said secondary service opening is formed in a side wall of said distended portion, and further comprising a first lid for removably covering said main service opening, and a second lid for removably covering said secondary service opening, wherein said second lid has an air flow opening formed therethrough, and wherein said second lid also serves as an attaching portion for an intake or exhaust duct.